

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 08181 130600Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 /017 W
----- 118083

R 130111Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1208

UNCLAS HONG KONG 8181

COMMERCE FOR MEPD
PASS EXIM BANK, DOUG SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/ BEXP, ENRG, HK
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT - HONG KONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY

SUMMARY:

THE HONG KONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (HKMTRC)
ANNOUNCED ON JULY 5 THE AWARD OF EIGHT ELECTRICAL AND
MECHANICAL CONTRACTS. THEY WERE AWARDED TO TWO COMPANIES
FROM HONG KONG, FOUR FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, ONE FROM
WEST GERMANY AND ONE FROM THE UNITED STATES, CUBIC WESTERN.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 5, NORMAN THOMPSON, MTRC CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED
THE AWARD OF EIGHT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTS.
THE CONTRACTS AND THE COMPANIES TO WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN
AWARDED ARE:-

E-1 (TRAINS) - METRO - CAMMELL, UNITED KINGDOM

E-2 (SIGNALLING AND CONTROL SYSTEMS) - WESTINGHOUSE
BRAKE AND SIGNAL, UNITED KINGDOM

E-3 (TELECOMMUNICATIONS) - SIEMENS, WEST GERMANY

E-4 (POWER SUPPLY) - GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, UNITED KINGDOM

E-5 (ESCALATORS AND STATION LIFTS) - OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY, HONGKONG

E-6 (AUTOMATIC FARE COLLECTION EQUIPMENT) - CUBIC WESTERN,
UNITED STATES

E-8 (STATION AND TUNNEL AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT) - GENERAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY, HONG KONG

E9 (KOWLOON BAY DEPOT EQUIPMENT) - VICKERS, UNITED KINGDOM

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2. THE CONTRACTS TOTALLED ABOUT US\$140 MILLION OF WHICH THE CONTRACT FOR THE TRAINS REPRESENTS SLIGHTLY LESS THAN HALF. THE SINGLE U.S. CONTRACT, AWARDED TO CUBIC WESTERN, IS FOR APPROXIMATELY US\$14.5 MILLION. JAPANESE FIRMS WERE NOTICEABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE ALTHOUGH THEY HAD EARLIER PICKED UP A NUMBER OF ENGINEERING CONTRACTS.

3. THE MTRC HAS NOW LET ALMOST ALL THE MAJOR CONTRACTS FOR THE EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM. CONTRACT E-7 (ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEM) IS THE ONLY ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTRACT STILL OPEN. MTRC IS STILL STUDYING VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SYSTEMS AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS. OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS THE ONLY MAJOR ONES STILL UNDECIDED ARE FOR THE KOWLOON BAY DEPOT. THESE WILL BE AWARDED TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS. ALL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN AWARDED EXCEPT FOR THE TRACKWORK.

4. CONTRACT COSTS, BOTH ENGINEERING AND ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL, ARE STILL WITHIN ORIGINAL ESTIMATES ACCORDING TO THOMPSON AND THE REMAINDER OF THE CONTRACTS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO BE WITHIN THESE ESTIMATES, THE FIRST SECTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL BY SECOND HALF OF 1979 WITH THE ENTIRE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OPEN BY FIRST HALF OF 1980. WHEN QUERIED BY PRESS THOMPSON SAID THAT WHILE ALL AWARDS WERE DECIDED ON THEIR MERITS (TECHNICAL, PRICE, ETC.) THE STERLING EXCHANGE RATES ADDED TO THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE SUCCESSFUL UK BIDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESS FIRMS, CONTRACTS, RAIL TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK08181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760268-1143
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaacfat.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafaj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by schaeafaj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT - HONG KONG MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SUMMARY
TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, ELTN, HK
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006